

### ### Basic Information

**\*\*Country Name:\*\* Bangladesh**

**\*\*Policy Publication Year:\*\* 2024 (Draft)**

**\*\*Socio-Economic Context:\*\***

Bangladesh is classified as a lower-middle-income country by the World Bank, with a rapidly growing economy primarily driven by the textile and garment industry, agriculture, and remittances from overseas workers. The country has made significant strides in digital transformation, particularly through the "Digital Bangladesh" initiative, which aims to leverage technology for socio-economic development. However, challenges remain, including a need for enhanced infrastructure, education, and skills development to fully harness the potential of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI).

**\*\*Policy Type:\*\* National Artificial Intelligence Policy**

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### ### 1. Key Objectives and Strategies in the Policy

**\*\*Key Objectives:\*\***

- Establish Bangladesh as a pioneer in AI

innovation and adoption.

- Transform 'Digital Bangladesh' into 'Smart Bangladesh' by leveraging AI technologies.
- Accelerate equitable economic growth and productivity through AI.
- Ensure efficiency and accessibility of public services via AI.
- Foster a skilled workforce capable of utilizing AI technologies.
- Promote a culture of AI research and innovation.
- Develop a robust ethical framework for AI deployment.

**\*\*Strategies:\*\***

- **\*\*Sector-Specific Focus:\*\*** The policy identifies priority sectors for AI integration, including:
  - Smart public services and governance
  - Telecommunication and data governance
  - Agriculture
  - Environment and climate change
  - Smart cities and transportation
  - Finance and trade
  - Manufacturing
  - Education and skills development
  - Healthcare

- Science and technology research
- **Implementation Approaches:**
- Establish an independent National AI Center of Excellence (NAICE) for coordination and monitoring.
- Develop a legal and regulatory framework for AI ethics and data governance.
- Create partnerships between government, academia, and the private sector for AI initiatives.
- Invest in education and training programs to build AI literacy and skills.

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## ### 2. Comparative Analysis with Socio-Economic Countries

### **Similar Socio-Economic Countries:**

- **India:** Both countries aim to leverage AI for economic growth and societal benefits. India has established initiatives like the National AI Strategy, focusing on sectors like healthcare and agriculture, similar to Bangladesh's approach. However, India has a more developed framework for AI ethics and governance.

### **Higher-Income Countries:**

- **Germany:** The German AI Strategy emphasizes ethical AI development and

public-private partnerships, with significant funding for research and development. Bangladesh could learn from Germany's structured approach to funding mechanisms and regulatory frameworks to enhance the effectiveness of its AI initiatives.

**\*\*Lower-Income Countries:\*\***

- **\*\*Rwanda:\*\*** Rwanda's National AI Policy emphasizes building AI literacy and ethical frameworks while addressing local challenges. Bangladesh can adopt Rwanda's community-focused approaches to ensure inclusivity and engagement in AI development, leveraging local resources and capacities.

**\*\*Key Insights:\*\***

- **\*\*Objectives and Strategies:\*\***

Bangladesh's policy aligns with global trends in AI adoption but could benefit from more explicit ethical guidelines and funding strategies seen in higher-income countries.

- **\*\*Priorities and Funding:\*\*** Bangladesh needs to establish clear funding mechanisms to support its ambitious AI initiatives, similar to how Germany allocates substantial resources for AI research.

- **\*\*Approaches and Implementation:\*\*** The collaborative models used by Rwanda can serve as a blueprint for Bangladesh to engage local communities and stakeholders effectively.

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### ### 3. Gaps and Areas of Improvement

#### **\*\*Benchmarking Against OECD Guidelines:\*\***

- The policy lacks detailed frameworks for monitoring and evaluation, which are crucial for ensuring accountability and transparency in AI initiatives.

- There is insufficient emphasis on data privacy and protection, which are critical in the context of AI applications.

#### **\*\*Incorporation of Comparative Insights:\*\***

- The policy should include specific mechanisms for public participation in AI governance, as seen in Rwanda, to enhance trust and accountability.

- Ethical considerations need to be more robustly defined, particularly around data usage and algorithmic bias.

#### **\*\*Inclusivity and Workforce Development:\*\***

- The policy should explicitly target marginalized communities to ensure equitable access to AI technologies, drawing lessons

from successful initiatives in India and Rwanda.

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#### ### 4. Recommendations for Policy

##### Improvement

##### **\*\*Adopting Best Practices:\*\***

- Incorporate successful strategies from India and Rwanda, such as community engagement and targeted educational programs, to build a skilled workforce.

##### **\*\*Enhancing Ethical Frameworks:\*\***

- Strengthen ethical guidelines by including comprehensive data privacy measures and bias mitigation strategies, inspired by frameworks from Germany and the EU.

##### **\*\*Fostering International Cooperation:\*\***

- Establish partnerships with international organizations and countries with advanced AI ecosystems to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building.

##### **\*\*Resource Allocation and Funding**

##### **Mechanisms:\*\***

- Develop a clear funding strategy for AI initiatives, similar to the structured funding mechanisms in Germany, to ensure sustainable investment in AI research and

development.

**\*\*Scalable and Sustainable Approaches:\*\***

- Focus on scalable solutions that are resource-efficient, drawing from practices in lower-income countries like Rwanda, to maximize the impact of AI initiatives.

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**### 5. Strengths and Innovative Approaches**

**\*\*Unique Strategies:\*\***

- The policy emphasizes a human-centered approach to AI, which aligns well with Bangladesh's socio-cultural context, promoting inclusivity and ethical considerations.
- The focus on integrating AI across various sectors highlights the government's commitment to leveraging technology for comprehensive national development.

**\*\*Forward-Thinking Approaches:\*\***

- Establishing a National AI Center of Excellence demonstrates a proactive strategy to foster innovation and collaboration among stakeholders, positioning Bangladesh as a leader in AI within the region.

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This analysis provides a comprehensive overview of Bangladesh's National Artificial

Intelligence Policy 2024, offering insights into its objectives, strategies, and areas for improvement while drawing comparisons with other countries. By addressing identified gaps and implementing recommended changes, Bangladesh can enhance its AI policy framework to better serve its citizens and achieve its vision of a Smart Bangladesh by 2041.